

REMARKS

Claims 27-31 are pending in the application and have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. EX PARTE QUAYLE

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 27-31 subject to addressing the objections raised on pages 2-4 of the Office Action.

Applicants have amended claims 27-31 based on the Examiner's recommendations.

Regarding claim 27, lines 20-21, the Examiner suggests that "for selecting a maximum pattern length and a minimum pattern length" should instead recite --for selecting the maximum pattern length the minimum pattern length-- (*sic*). In an effort to perhaps better clarify, applicants have amended claims 27-31 to recite "selecting the maximum pattern length or the minimum pattern length that is considered optimum as cycle information". Applicants respectfully submit that the revised claim language corresponds more directly with the corresponding language in the specification, e.g., page 18, line 31 to page 19, line 16. Nor does the revised claim language adversely affect the allowability of claims 27-31.

In view of the above changes, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim objections.

II. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 27-31 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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